

palms, replanting with quality seedlings, adoption of fertiliser and plant protection measures and multispecies cropping system.

(4) Integrated control of leaf eating caterpillar

Multiplied and liberated 23 million parasites through biological laboratories in Orissa and Karnataka for control of serious pest viz., leaf eating caterpillar.

(5) Technology development centre

The research studies sponsored by the Board has resulted in developing technologies for coconut products like coconut cream, coconut water vinegar, skim milk powder, tender coconut water. These technologies are being commercialised. 172 copra dryers installed, 20 cooperative societies were given financial assistance for developing infrastructure facilities like copra yards, godowns, kilns etc. 40 units of Elaneer Pandals were assisted in Kerala for popularising consumption of tender coconut water.

(6) Publicity and Extension activities

The major thrust was given on popularising the use of coconut oil by dispelling the misconception that coconut oil consumption is harmful, creating awareness on various coconut products and by-products, scientific method of coconut cultivation, especially in non-traditional areas. As a result of the campaign the consumption of coconut oil for edible purpose increased by 200% during the last 3-4 years.

(7) A new office complex has been completed for housing the Headquarters of the Board functioning at Kochi, Kerala.

The Coconut Development Board has spent Rs. 52.73 crores for carrying out the above mentioned developmental activities during 1992-93 to 1995-96.

(b) For installation of drip irrigation system, Government of India is providing subsidy @ 90% of the cost of drip system or Rs. 25,000/- per ha. to SC and ST farmers, small and marginal farmers and women farmers in the current year. For other farmers the subsidy provided is @ 70% of the cost of drip system or Rs. 25,000/- per ha.

(c) and (d) The programmes being implemented by the Coconut Development Board during VIII Plan for increasing production and productivity of coconut in the country are :

- (i) Expansion of area under coconut.
- (ii) Production and distribution of quality planting material.
- (iii) Integrated farming in coconut holdings for

productivity improvement.

(iv) Integrated control of leaf eating caterpillar.

These programmes are likely to continue during the 9th Plan.

[English]

Indo-Israel Agreement

627. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have entered into joint collaboration with Israel for the development of agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details of the joint collaboration set up between both the countries ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) An Agreement was signed between India and Israel on 24.12.93 for cooperation in the field of Agriculture. The areas of cooperation include water and soil management, arid and semi-arid crop production, fruit and vegetable production, plant and animal sciences, veterinary science, farm mechanisation technology and agricultural research etc.

In addition, a Memorandum of Intent was signed between India and Israel on 30th December, 1996 for establishing a demonstration farm unit at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, with the aim of developing viable technological packages and technology transfer for the small farmers and private sector.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Review by the Government of the working of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, New Delhi

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :